

REFINERY PERMIT PROCESS
SCHEDULE ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNEAPOLIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 7, 2006

Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to the Refinery Permit Process Schedule Act—H.R. 5254. This bill wrongly attempts to streamline environmental regulations in an effort to spur construction of new refining facilities, while doing nothing to move the country toward energy independence.

The Refinery Permit Process Schedule Act—H.R. 5254—mandates additional Federal oversight and requires State and local governments to comply with a new Federal schedule for approving permits to site, construct or expand a refinery. This bill fails to address legitimate concerns over the slow pace of expansion and increasing geographic concentration of America's oil refining facilities.

Supporters of H.R. 5254 blame state and local environmental regulations for obstructing the construction of new refining facilities. But private oil refining companies are choosing not to construct new facilities based on their own economic projections rather than local environmental hurdles. The Wall Street Journal recently reported that Exxon is not building new refineries because it expects growth in U.S. demand for gasoline will be too insufficient to justify the capital investment. The chief executive officer for Shell Oil testified before Congress in 2005 that he knows of no environmental regulations that have prevented his company from expanding refinery capacity or siting a new refinery. Clearly, undermining State and local laws will do nothing to change the market-forces that are the true basis of companies' decisions regarding refinery construction.

In addition, H.R. 5254 does nothing to promote home-grown biofuels, a critical element of America's energy independence strategy. In the last 30 years, 97 new bio-refineries have been built in the U.S. and more are needed. But this bill will not expand America's biofuel industry for the same reason it fails to expand oil refining capacity—State and local regulations are not the barrier to growth. Biofuel industry experts have testified that State and local regulations have not prevented the siting or permitting of new bio-refineries.

It is time for leadership, vision and commitment from Washington to make the smart investments that will protect our Nation's economic security and our planet's future. In Congress, we should start by rescinding the billion of dollars in subsidies for oil and gas companies to expand drilling. We must invest in research and extend incentives for alternative energy sources such as wind, biomass and biofuels that keep energy costs down, create jobs and make us more competitive in the global economy. A clean energy future that addresses oil dependence and environmental concerns such as climate change is achievable.

But we should not expect our energy situation to change until the Bush administration and the Republican leaders in Congress get serious about tackling our oil dependence.

H.R. 5254 is a thinly veiled second attempt by the Republican majority to pass the con-

troversial Gasoline for America's Security Act—H.R. 3893—which the House narrowly passed in 2005 and the Senate ignored. As with that bill, H.R. 5254 has had no hearings, no markups, no opportunity for Congress to make necessary inquiries. Real solutions to America's energy challenges will result from a transparent legislative process, bipartisan cooperation and visionary ideas. The Republican majority has once again offered energy legislation that falls far short of a real solution.

IN SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF JOEL
M. CARP**HON. TIMOTHY V. JOHNSON**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 9, 2006

Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of Joel M. Carp upon the occasion of his retirement after 28 years of service with the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago. Throughout his distinguished career, Mr. Carp has supported continued social work, social planning and advocacy in the City of Chicago, the State of Illinois, and the country as a whole.

For over 30 years, Mr. Carp has dedicated his professional and personal life as an advocate for numerous social policy efforts serving on a number of government task forces and advisory boards, including the City of Chicago Mayor's Task Force on Hunger, the Cook County Task Force on Welfare Reform, and the Governor's Task Force on Services for the Homeless to name just a few. Additionally, Mr. Carp has served as a member of numerous local, state, and national professional and community service organizations as an advocate for the welfare of the Jewish community.

As an effective leader and tireless advocate, Mr. Carp has received several awards in recognition of his work, including the Melvin A. Block Award for Professional Distinction from the Associated YM-YWHA's of Greater New York, the City of Chicago's Commission on Human Relations Award, and a special award from the YMCA of the USA for helping to restore Agency for International Development funding for human services in Lebanon.

Upon his retirement as the Senior Vice President for Community Services and Government Relations of the Jewish Federation/Jewish United Fund of Metropolitan Chicago, Mr. Carp leaves behind a long legacy of social advocacy within the Jewish community. Mr. Carp is an inspiration to all for his dedication and leadership in shaping and improving social policy.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Joel M. Carp in recognition of his distinguished and tireless work and service to his community.

RECOGNIZING TAYLOR MICHAEL
WALLACE FOR ACHIEVING THE
RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 9, 2006

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Taylor Michael Wallace, a very

special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 314, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Taylor has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Taylor has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Taylor Michael Wallace for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

FORMER PENTAGON LAWYER
ALBERTO J. MORA: AN EXEMPLAR
OF AMERICAN VALUES
WITH A WARNING: DO NOT LET
FEAR OVERCOME THE DISCIPLINE
OF LAW AND AMERICAN
VALUES**HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 9, 2006

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce into the RECORD an opinion piece by former Navy lawyer Alberto J. Mora entitled "An Affront to American Values" which appeared in the Washington Post on May 27, 2006, as well as an Op-Ed of February 20, 2006 in The New York Times entitled "Senior Lawyer at Pentagon Broke Ranks on Detainees."

The Times pointed out in its Op-Ed that Alberto Mora in his position as one of the Pentagon's top civilian lawyers "repeatedly challenged the Bush administration's policy on the coercive interrogation of terror suspects, arguing that such practices violated the law, verged on torture, and could ultimately expose senior officials to prosecution . . ." The information came from a then newly disclosed document, a memorandum Mr. Mora wrote in July 2004 and made public in an article in The New Yorker magazine on February 19, 2006.

I have repeatedly spoken out against the "torture policies" directly traced to Secretary of Defense Rumsfeld, Vice President CHENEY (who remains a champion of torture) and President Bush who two weeks after the Congress passed a law banning all torture of any person in the custody of the U.S. issued a signing letter stating he was not bound by that law when in his judgment he needs to use torture in his war on terror.

I am immensely gratified to know Mr. Mora challenged the opinions of Secretary Rumsfeld, who is not a lawyer and appears to have a low regard for the law, regarding the legal parameters of the treatment of detainees. But I am most proud and grateful for two excellent questions Mr. Mora asked his clients at the Pentagon which The Times reported: "Defense Department officials found striking and out of character for a loyal Republican, a supporter of President Bush, Secretary Rumsfeld and the fight against terrorism."

He asked the questions every one in the Pentagon and the Military of good character should have asked regardless of his or her